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21 July 1954

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD**

**SUBJECT:                      OCI Attitude Toward  
                                 External Research**

1. Reference is made to the following comments extracted from recent memoranda from OCI:

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25X1A

a. Memorandum dated 18 June 1954 from [REDACTED] subject: Proposed project on current Chinese press: ".....this office would prefer not to be put in a position of being required to make a detailed review or analysis of studies of this type"

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25X6

25X6

b. Memorandum from [REDACTED] dated 23 June 1954, subject: Proposed external research projects / on "Chang Kuo-T'ao's Memoirs" [REDACTED] "In summary, it would appear that while OCI would be interested in reading the finished product in each case, it would not be interested in supporting the project or in making critical evaluation."

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25X6

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c. Memorandum from [REDACTED] dated 22 June 1954, subject: [REDACTED] "We would not be interested in making a critique of the study. Our interest would be in gaining information we do not have rather than evaluating the study on the basis of information we now possess"

25X1A

d. Memorandum from [REDACTED] dated 22 June 1954 subject: Chang Kuo-T'ao's Memoirs: "We would emphatically not wish to make a critique of Chang's product. It is the sad fact that these external research projects have more often put us in the position of working for them, by doing detailed commentaries on them, than they have worked for us by telling us something important we didn't know"

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2. I called [REDACTED] attention to the general tone of these comments, saying that my impression was that OCI seemed to be more bothered than helped by external research. I added that if this is the case, I will be glad to refrain from sending further external research matters to OCI. On the other hand, if OCI does have some interest in external research, it must assume its share of the Agency responsibility in indicating from time to time what is and what is not useful to it. It would of course be much easier for every office in the Agency to receive all materials that come in from the outside without feeling any obligation to comment on them. Such a practice would stop materials from coming in in short order, however.

25X1A

[REDACTED]  
Office of the Special Assistant  
to the Director  
for Planning and Coordination

CEH:aml (21 July 1954)

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